

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled MAIL OPENER APPARATUS the specification of which is attached hereto, which I solicit a United States Patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above, and acknowledge a duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application under 37 CFR 1.56(a). I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before my or our invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof more than one year prior to this application or said international application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application or said international application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application or said international application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application or said international application and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application or said international application by me or my legal representatives or assigns except as identified below. I hereby claim priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119 based on any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on the present invention, filed before the application(s) on which priority is claimed.

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, REFERRED TO ABOVE

COUNTRY    APPLICATION NUMBER    DAY, MONTH, YEAR FILED    PRIORITY CLAIMED

GB                      0002024.8                      29 January 2000                      Yes

I hereby claim benefit under 35 U.S.C.120 of any U.S. application(s) listed below. If the subject matter of any claim(s) of this application is not disclosed in the prior U.S. application(s) as required by paragraph one of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge a duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) regarding occurrences between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER    DAY, MONTH & YEAR FILED                      STATUS

None

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Applicant hereby appoints Allen P. Rosenberg Reg. No. 24946, Charles W. Fallow, Reg. No. 28946, Paul V. Del Giudice, Reg. No. 28788 and Jerry W. Berkstresser, Reg. No. 22651, attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

APPOINTMENT OF DOMESTIC REPRESENTATIVE

Address all communications to SHOEMAKER AND MATTARE, LTD., Suite 1203 Crystal Plaza Building 1, 2001 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202. (703-415-0810).

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true. All statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. These statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and may jeopardise the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Note: Please sign one full given name and your surname, using initials where appropriate for other names. It is important that the name be consistent throughout the application papers. Signing of an application more than five weeks prior to filing or an undated application is not acceptable to the Patent and Trademark Office except for receiving an initial filing date.

1. Full name of inventor: ANTHONY LAWRENCE

Inventor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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18 January 2001

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